

WCGS NEWS

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JANUARY 2001

From our mailbox:

Vernon Everett Writes:

Roanoke River Lighthouse Keeper

Samuel Hardison - 1850 - Born 1780 Martin Co., NC. Died ca 1860 - Son of Benjamin Hardison and Elizabeth Duggan. Benjamin died ca 1785, Martin Co., NC and was the son of John and Olive Hardison who died ca 1778, Martin Co., NC. John Hardison was the son of Jasper and Mary Hardison who died October 1733. Jasper Hardison patented 640 acres of land in 1730 on the west side of Welch's Creek. Jasper and his neighbor, William Rhodes, are thought to have come from Mass. and were most likely related.

Response to queries:

I have been researching my Everett line for over 10 years and find I am related to a great number of families in Tyrrell and Washington Cos. The wills, marriages, and county court records for the first one-half century of Washington County were lost in court house fires, thus we must rely on deed records for a great deal of information. I have not searched the deeds for (your) Clifton family which may yield more information.

The Sanderlins, (Sandlin in many records) can be found in Dare and Tyrrell counties. Sr. and Jr. were used a bit differently in early times. When two men had the same name, the older one

was Sr. and were not necessarily father and son. When Sr. died sometimes Jr. was later referred to as Sr. when there was another namesake. It can be very confusing.

Nathaniel Everett II 1707-1782, son of

Nathaniel Everett I had 17 known children, so that might account for my many relatives. I am 8th generation from Nathaniel Everett I.

I hope this is a help to you searching your family tree. (Ed. note: This is Vernon's response to query by Dan Clifton, WCGS News, Oct. 2000, pg. 3)

Early Clifton(s):

Tyrrell Co. Tax List 1782

- Charles Clifton No Land - Pole (poll) tax

1784-1787 Tyrrell Co.

Census - Charles

Clifton: 1 male 21-60 -

Charles; 1 male under 21

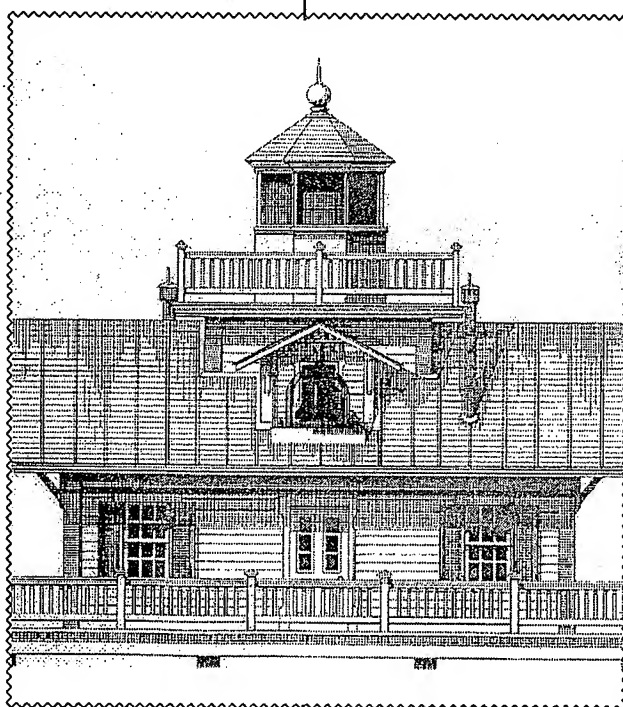
over 60 - Thomas - son;

5 females wife Mary

(Polly); daughters

Elizabeth and Rhoda; two others.

1790 Tyrrell Co. Census: Mary Clifton; Male 16 and over 0 - Charles deceased; Male 16 and Under - 1 - Thomas; Females - 4: Mary, Elizabeth, two others. Rhoda married James Brown Jr. 9 Apr 1790. Charles and Mary Clifton lived in the area of Tyrrell Co. south of present-day Plymouth.



Roanoke River Lighthouse - Courtesy Dow Jones Jr.

John and Robert Clifton lived in the eastern section of Washington Co. I do not know if Charles was related to these other Cliftons.

Thomas Clifton born 1780-90, died after 1840, married Elizabeth Blount born 1780-90, died after 1840, daughter of Edmund Blount Sr. and Hannah Fagan.

Elizabeth Clifton married Ezekiel Blount ca. 1805 son of Edmund Blount Sr. and Hannah Fagan. Hannah Fagan was the daughter of Bedford Fagan. Edmund and Hannah were married 15 May 1766. Elizabeth - Ezekiel's 2nd wife.

Blount:

1. James Blount of England died 1685 at Mulberry Hill, present-day Chowan Co. Wife unknown.
2. Capt. Thomas Blount, son of James born 1638 in England, died 1706 in present-day Washington Co., married Mary Durant? Scott, widow of Joshua Scott.
3. Benjamin Blount, son of Thomas and Mary, was born ca. 1690, died ca 1740, married Elizabeth Everett, daughter of Nathaniel Everett I 1678-1749 and Mary Mitchell ca. 1670-1744. Mary was the widow of John Harrison.
4. Edmund Blount Sr. 1731-1794 - son of Benjamin and Elizabeth, married Hannah Fagan - their children were:
 1. Levi Blount Jr. - died before 1815 - married Milly Everett - 4 Jan 1796
 2. Esther Blount married Malichi Corprew 22 June 1798
 3. Elizabeth Blount married Thomas Clifton
 4. Ezekiel Blount married ca 1805 Elizabeth Clifton as 2nd wife
 5. Luke Blount - no info
 6. One other unknown dead by 1816

Note: Ezekiel Blount's 1st wife was Elizabeth Jordan - bond 14 Aug 1793.

Children of Thomas Clifton and Elizabeth Blount

1. Mary - named for her grandmother, born before 1816
2. Edmund - named for his grandfather, born before 1816

3. Thomas B. Clifton, born 31 August 1820, died 5 August 1901. The "B" most likely for Blount.

4. One other unknown.

Thomas "Blount"? Clifton married 1st about 1842, wife unknown and had two children - David and Samuel. Samuel married Milly Spruill 6 Feb 1867. Samuel was working with his father on the Roanoke River Lighthouse in 1870. The census shows that Thomas B. Clifton was the lighthouse keeper in 1860, 1870 and 1880. Clifton records indicate that his second wife was Martha Brown, born ca 1831. The only Martha Brown I could find was the daughter of James and Nancy Brown of Martin Co. She was listed as born in 1833. Thomas and Martha had three children, Warren, Elizabeth and William.

Thomas married 3rd Sarah Cooper, the daughter of ? and Sarah Cooper, 24 Jan 1866. Thomas and Sarah had three children: John, Sarah and Lula. William and Sarah disappear from the records so they died young.

Thomas B. Clifton married 4th Penelope Catherine Sanderlin, daughter of Thomas Sanderlin and Priscilla Craddock. Catherine had married first, Starkey A. Wynne 29 Aug 1867. Their children were William Benjamin, born 1874, died 1 Sept. 1934 - Donna, Lucy, Ernest and Jesse. There is no record of any children by Wynne.

Sources of Information:

1782 Tyrrell Co. Tax List
 1784-87 Tyrrell Co. Census
 1790 Tyrrell Co. Census
 1800 Washington Co. Census
 1810 Washington Co. Census
 1820 Washington Co. Census
 1830 Washington Co. Census
 1840 Washington Co. Census
 1850 Washington Co. Census
 1860 Washington Co. Census
 1870 Washington Co. Census
 1880 Washington Co. Census
 Everett Family Research
 Cemetery Records
 Washington Co. Deed Book D - Pages 118-119
 Book A. 1851-1884 Washington Co. Marriages

Tyrrell Co. Marriages.

Thomas B. Clifton Cemetery

Plymouth Township - Washington County - Plymouth, N.C.; Searched: April 13, 1991 by Vance & Veronica Haskett & Stanley West; Location: Leaving Hwy 32 entering Hwy (?) North on Old Roper Road - go .2 mile - cemetery on right about 200 yards from the road.

1. Clifton, Thomas B. - August 31, 1820 - August 5, 1901 - A sinner saved by grace - Wife: Penelope Catherine Sanderlin.
2. Clifton, Penelope Catherine - September 25, 1846 - March 10, 1926 - Husb: Thomas B. Clifton; Par: Thomas Sanderlin & Priscilla Craddock. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

NOTE: Thomas and Penelope Clifton had a son: William Benjamin Clifton (m) Sarah Elizabeth Swain, daughter of Romulus Seaton Swain and wife, Frances Alezina Swain. William and Sarah Clifton's children were: (1) Donnie Clifton (m) J. Linwood Knowles; (2) William Benjamin Clifton, Jr.; (3) Cushing Biggs Clifton.

Information from Veronica Haskett files. (VLE, contributor) **wccg**

Washington County Genealogical Society

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Shirleyan Beacham Phelps, President

Virginia C. Haire, Vice President

Barbara Modlin Revels, Sec/Treasurer

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WCGS Meets 2:30 p.m. Third Sundays

Membership fees: \$15 individual / \$18 family

Queries Welcomed

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National Genealogical Society (NGS) Regional Conference - Raleigh NC 24 March 2001 - Speakers: Cyndi Howells (Cyndi's List of Genealogy sites) and Sheila Benedict, CGRS. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center. Registration 8 a.m., sessions start at 9. NGS will host luncheon at 11:45. Cost: \$40 NGS members; \$50 non-members; lunch - \$22.

Call (800) 473-0060 or visit

<http://ngsgenealogy.org/feature/content/Raleigh.html>

Genealogy and The Web

Linda Haas Davenport

Now that you have an understanding of this thing called the Web, let's take a look at genealogy on the web.

When I first began researching my family the web, as we know it today, did not exist. I spent my time writing letters (and more time waiting on replies), looking at microfilm and saving money to visit those areas where my families once lived. I subscribed to at least a dozen magazines and belonged to even more genealogy societies. Family hunting was fun but, oh, it was so frustrating and so slow. Then came the web.

In the beginning there was very little on the web for the average genealogist. It was fairly easy to keep up with because, at that time, the web itself was very small. One of the first places that genealogy information started showing up was at a place called the USGenWeb Project. It was a loose knit group of individuals who had a dream - a dream to have a web site for every state, county and township in the U.S. The dream was to put as much information about a location on-line as possible and make it available to anyone searching for their family in that location.

Rootsweb (a server) shared the same dream and offered to host (store) these web pages on their computer at no cost. That was several years ago and today that dream is a reality and information is going on-line at the project's web sites every day. But, putting information on-line takes time and a lot of work. Just think of the number of record books in the average court house or even the amount of information you personally have compiled on your own family. Think of the number of pages on any one roll of census film and then multiple that by all the rolls of microfilm for all the years of the federal census. It's staggering. There are many volunteers who spend hours and hours transcribing old records and getting them on-line, but it's a slow process.

It wasn't long before some of the big genealogy companies took their businesses to the web. Everton Publishers, Heritage Quest and Ancestry joined the genealogy web community offering their own services plus transcribing and

putting data on-line. However, their information is not free. To access their information you must pay a monthly or yearly fee. These companies are in business and they must make a profit to stay in business, so we should not fault them for their fees. They are spending a ton of money on the man-power to transcribe old records, and/or buy existing transcriptions, abstracts, and copyrighted books to put on-line for our use.

Let's digress here a second. I told you in a previous article that the web is much like our idea of the old wild west - uncontrolled, untamed, wide open and at times dangerous. Here's one of the areas where the web becomes dangerous. There are many places on the web that want you to pay before you can access the "genealogy information" they claim to have available. **Don't do it** unless the site is one that you already know and trust - Everton's, Heritage Quest, and Ancestry are the big three. Until you have spent some time on the web and e-mail lists so you have at least some idea of the scam sites keep your credit card in your pocket. We're going to talk more about some of these sites later. Please just trust me for right now. There are enough free sites on the web to keep you busy without paying for dubious information.

Now back to our discussion of the web and genealogy. For those of us who started researching our families before the web was around sending copies of our family group sheets and/or narrative histories was commonplace. We all struggled to make connect with a long lost cousin or find someone, somewhere who was working on our family lines. The web offered a way to reach untold people and individuals started to itch to put their own family information on-line. To hopefully connect to a long lost cousin who might be able to knock down some brick walls or supply a missing great-grandmother. Local ISPs started making space available on their computers for these home pages. Suddenly home genealogy sites abounded.

A desire to speed up the letter writing process (and eliminate a bunch of wait time) was burning in most on-line genealogist's breasts. In answer to that desire News Groups and then E-mail lists

sprang up giving people a means of communicating with others searching for the same surname or in the same area.

Suddenly one day the web was huge and there was no card catalog, no address list (and there still isn't) - just thousands and thousands of web pages, hosted on thousands and thousands of computers scattered all over the world.

Next month we will talk about how to navigate around these thousands and thousands of web sites without becoming so frustrated you swear off of genealogy forever. See you next month. **WCGS**

Note: You can find Washington County, North Carolina Census online at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ncwashin/wcensus.htm>

Area Obituaries

There have been many deaths over the past few weeks and WCGS sends condolences to the family of Lillian Corbett Vernelson, who died Saturday, 6 January 2001. She was the mother of member John Vernelson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. J. D. Vernelson, who died in 1996. Rev. Vernelson once served as pastor in Washington County. Mrs. Vernelson, 89, was survived by three other sons: Hilton, Joe and Wayne; three daughters: Elaine V. Taylor, Ann V. James and Linda V. McLawhorn; 14 grandchildren; 17 ggchildren and one gggrandchild. She was a native of Pitt County.

Several years ago, I had the privilege of interviewing and writing about "Miss" Dora Bowen Askew and "Miss" Myrtle Chesson Dunbar. Both ladies lived long full lives. Miss" Dora was born 25 January 1897 (parents: John Bowen and Anne Latham) in Beaufort Co., NC and died 31 December 2000 in Plymouth, Washington Co., NC. She married George Pierce Askew, who died 23 December 1958. They were married by and at the home of the late Rev. Newsome H. Harrison. Miss Dora leaves a wonderful legacy in the community and her family will long cherish, among other things, the beautiful quilts she made.

Mrs. Myrtle Chesson Dunbar, 105, of Autumnfield, and formerly of the Pike Road area of Beaufort County, died Friday, 5 January 2001

at Pungo District Hospital, Belhaven, NC. She was born 8 April 1895 in the Millpond area of Washington County, daughter of the late Walter and Virginia Squires Chesson. She married William Claude Dunbar, who preceded her in death 30 April 1975. "Miss" Myrtle was a homemaker and even after she moved to Autumnfield, she continued to make crafts for her family and to sell. She was a member of Pike Road Church of Christ and is survived by sons Jack and Ralph, of the Pike Road community and by Russell, of Hertford, NC; 18 gc; 23 ggc; 17 gggc. Three sons preceded her in death: Harold, Donald and Foch Dunbar.

Another death with local family links was that of Burlie Woolard Singleton, age 93, who died on 6 January 2001 at the age of 93. A native of Beaufort County, she was born 12 October 1907, daughter of the late Fenner and Henrietta Roberson Woolard; she was a homemaker and a member of Old Ford Church of Christ; she married the late Sam Harvey "Jake" Singleton on 16 January 1929; he died 3 August 1982. She is survived by daughters Catherine Hodges and Libby Moore of Washington; Laura Lilley, Williamston; one sister; eight gc; five ggc; she was preceded in death by a son, Sam Singleton, Jr.; six brothers and three sisters. (Obituary, Washington Daily News). (Granddaughter Christi Lilley Rogerson lives in Plymouth.)

Thomas Allen Peed, Sr., born 6 May 1930, died 27 December 2000; Thomas, son of the late Allen Wilson and Ruby Askew Peed, was a county native who married Laquita Hassell 24 January 1953; other survivors include a son Thomas Allen Peed, Jr., and a daughter, Tina Ann Lewis; four grandchildren; brother, Jimmy Peed; sisters, Mary Liegeot, Joyce Bowen, and Melba Styons. **wcgs**

Queries - on and off line

1. Andrew Marcus Ange (AAng@traid.rr.com) needs help finding g-grandparents Levi Ange, Evah Stubbs Ange, Caleb Singleton Ambrose and Allie Alexander; has had a hard time finding those names and will be appreciative of any help. (Remember to share with WCGS

if you have info on these ancestors.)

2. Okey Batchelor (okey@nternet.net) searching info on Richard Batchelor Jr., b. c 1670, m. Katherine? R.B., Jr. mentioned Bath, NC, Chowan, Tirell, Lake Phelps; R. Batchelor got land in Onslow Co in 1737. Any help appreciated.
3. Audrey Hilton (AHilton999@aol.com) looking for descendants: Henry T., Harrison W., or Alonza M. Gray, Washington Co, NC - listed 1880 census as children of William F. Gray and Adeline. Also: descendants of Joshua Gray, son of Godfrey Gray (d. 1792). Joshua m. Jenny Bateman 1814 and Airs Todd 1822; he sold property in Washington Co., NC 1812.
4. Flo Abel (Abel@us.net) seeks information on: Penelope Cutler, (dau of John and Phenny Cutler) m. James Reid from Edinburgh, Scotland and settled in Washington Co., NC in 1870s. Her dau. Florence m. John P. Harris II and raised their family in Washington, Beaufort Co., NC in early 1900s. John Harris was descendant of Sawyers and Bridgmans of surrounding area.
5. LEHMICKE@aol.com posted online query: "Frank Ventress lived in Washington County. Died 192X (Shot by John Dillinger in St. Paul, MN) ?
6. Hilton Peel, Williamston, Martin Co, NC native, is researching George Augustus Tetterton (m. 1st Nancy Ann ? 2nd) Susan Jane Fulcher. George, (son of James) , and his wives, are buried on NC 32 South, Plymouth on farm owned by Raymond D. Bennett. Hilton lives at Cape Carteret, NC and recently visited the Tetterton cemetery, another one which is in need of restoration and preservation. (hiltonpeel@mynetocks.com) (Snail mail help please send to WCGS, PO Box 567, Plymouth NC 27962) **wcgs**

Corrections / Errors / Omissions

Vernon Everett called attention to errors, in October Newsletter: Parents of Rev. Stephen Martyn Biggs were omitted; (Amariah Biggs and Dorothy Martyn?) & Margie Wynn was born 1946 and not 1856.

BIGGS CEMETERY

Skiddersville Township: Blair Shores Road off Pea Ridge Road near Piney Grove

1. **Biggs, Rev. Stephen Martyn** Feb. 9, 1809 - Oct. 18, 1902
Parents: Amariah Biggs and Dorothy Martyn? Wife: Nancy A. Ambrose
2. **Biggs, Nancy A.** Dec. 24, 1822 - June 18, 1905
Parents: _____ and _____ Husband: Rev. Stephen M. Biggs
3. **Biggs, William Martyn** May 28, 1841 - About 1914 89 N. Y. INF Civil War
Parents: Rev. Stephen M. Biggs and Nancy Ann Ambrose Wives: Martha Ann Hufton, Mary Frances Shehan
4. **Biggs, Martha Ann** Aug. 12, 1842 - Nov. 22, 1924
Parents: James M. Hufton and Maria Ellis Husbands: Sylvanus Phelps, William M. Biggs
5. **Footstone Z.P.A. Zephania Powell Alexander ?** Buried in the Alexander Cemetery
6. **Hassell, G. Spencer** Jan. 7, 1902 - Apr. 19, 1973
Parents: James Preston Hassell and Virginia A. Biggs Wife: Elizabeth Windley
7. **Hassell, Jonas P.** Feb. 5, 1881 - Feb. 2, 1926
Parents: _____ and _____ Wife: _____
8. **Hassell** DHS no information
9. **Funeral marker** no information
10. **Funeral marker** no information

WYNN CEMETERY

Skiddersville Township: Barber Road 1.1 miles on left from Pea Ridge Road 200 yards from road in chain link fence

1. **Wynn, Ersel F.** July 4, 1915 - May 24, 1982
Parents: Joseph Benjamin and Hattie Swanner Wynn Wife: _____
2. **Wynn, Margie** Dec. 29, 1946 - May 28, 1952
Parents: Leroy Wynn and Margie Owens
3. **Wynn, Joseph Benjamin** Nov. 17, 1892 - Mar. 25, 1972 DHS
Parents: Benjamin F. Wynn and Samantha "Mattie" Elizabeth Norman Wife: Hattie Swanner
4. **Wynn, Hattie Swanner** Feb. 16, 1895 - July 9, 1980
Parents: Henry L. Swanner and Viola Snell Husband: Joseph Benjamin Wynn

Scanned image of Biggs & Wynn Cemetery

One Hundred Years Ago:

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in special session on 7 January 1901, with Jas. A. Chesson, chairman; J. M. Reid, Jos. Skittletharp, Alfred Alexander and E. R. Spruill to conduct the following business:

Licenses to sell spirits of five gallons or less were granted to:

L. B. Brown, at his business on the south side of Water Street, Plymouth;

A. G. Garrett, on the west side of Washington Street, Plymouth;

J. L. Savage, on the south side of Water Street, Plymouth;

L. S. Landing, on the west side of Washington Street, Plymouth;

Friley Chesson, on the road leading from Plymouth to Columbia in Lees Mill Township, about ½ mile west of Mackeys Ferry;

L. J. Peacock, Lees Mill township, 3 miles south of Roper on the N. & S. R. R.;

L. S. Sexton, Scuppernong Township, south side Scuppernong River about one mile from Creswell;

G. D. Swain, Scuppernong Township, 1 mile from the Creswell on road leading from Creswell to New land.

Liquor licenses were granted for six months each.

Hassell Lumber Company mill property was approved to be listed for taxes at a valuation of \$1,500.

Ordered that T. W. Blount be reimbursed by sheriff for over paid taxes \$17 or taxes on \$2,475;

E. J. Dance be relieved for taxes twice assessed;

S. B. Spruill be allowed to list Swan? Bay land at \$300 for Mr. Freeman of Bertie Co., 700 acres;

Mrs. Nancy Swain be allowed to list so as not be double taxed;

Ordered Jackson and Jim Blount be delivered to the poor house keeper instead of half rations;

B. F. Spruill be paid \$2, amount due him on rent of house to hold election in Creswell;

Levi Blount be refunded \$3.95 different in taxes over charged;

Mrs. M. Swain be allowed to list taxes through W. M. Bateman for last year;

Harry Woodley be allowed to list for last year; W. F. Morris be released from poll taxes for 1900 and relieved of work on the road;

J. E. Reid's bond as constable in Plymouth township be recorded as approved;

D. W. Windley's bond as constable in Lees Mill township be recorded as approved;

Ransome Floyd be relieved of poll tax for 1900;

W. M. Bateman's report "O. S. O."? be published as approved and found as o.k. in account.

C. M. Norman relieved of poll tax for 1900;

J. M. Arps' bond be recorded as approved as standard keeper;

J. M. Horton be allowed \$2.42 for 2 days and registering 14 names;

Levi Spruill be allowed \$26.66 for lumber, &c., for bridge and road, Scuppernong township;

Richard Elliott be allowed \$17.10 his acct. for furnishing the poor - Scuppernong township;

B. S. Lucas be allowed the sum of \$21.20 his acct. as coroner in Liza Patrick case, inquest, etc. (Roanoke Beacon Jan. ? 1901) **WCGS**

Other news

Loretta H. Phelps and I have been interviewing several gentlemen in the Creswell area that have passed their 90th birthdays - their stories will soon appear (hopefully) in the Roanoke Beacon, together with photographs. Loretta will also share with WCGS members at upcoming meetings some of her videotapes of those interviews and we will share their family history with WCGS members in future issues of the newsletter.

Our January meeting will be short, followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors; in February, Carl Burke from Somerset Place State Historic Site will be our guest speaker as part of the observance of Black History Month. In keeping with that theme, next month's news will include an article about the late Dr. Walter Johnson, who was raised in Plymouth.

Please remember April brings the Living History Week-end to Washington County; that May brings Homecoming to Concord (Saturday, 19th May, 11 a.m., with Lois Krawczyk as our speaker) and June 2 - Heritage Day at Davenport Homestead.

Washington County Bicentennial Committee has now placed 21 historical markers, with two additional ones to be ordered as soon as the information is received. Copies of *Washington County, NC: a Tapestry* are still available at \$50 plus shipping - if you live out-of-town or out-of-state, ask your local library to order a copy for its North Carolina collection.

Last year, Gordon Basnight and others proposed conducting a workshop for genealogists in Washington and Tyrrell counties with WCGS and TCH&GS co-hosting the event; conflicting schedules prevented this taking place. Efforts are now underway to schedule and plan the workshop. Watch for details in February.

Gordon (and others) has been extremely helpful in providing Washington County census transcriptions so we now have paper copies from 1800 through 1860; as well as 1880, available for purchase. **WCGS**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Washington County Genealogical Society
PO Box 567
Plymouth NC 27962
WCGS News Vol. XII - January 2001

TO: